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# Research for potential graduate programs chart

Refer to this handy chart to help narrow down your graduate program search

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuition cost</th>
<th>School A</th>
<th>School B</th>
<th>School C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of living in that city</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What financial assistance is available?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required exams</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GPA/Degree class requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>How many references do you need?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What statements do you need to write?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required documents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Length of writing sample</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Application due date</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>How will you afford the tuition?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What career opportunities will this graduate degree provide?</td>
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</table>
Making the financial decision to invest in graduate school

Where do I find the money to attend graduate school?

Making the decision to attend graduate school is a decision largely based on the financial impact it will make on you and your future career. The good news, however, is that there are many ways to fund graduate school! With things like scholarships, fellowships, and other on campus opportunities to find ways to pay for graduate school, its easier to make the decision to attend!

Things to do to ensure more financial aid:

1. Complete all scholarship and loan forms and documents
2. Request an enrollment deposit extension
3. Do not stop asking for assistance once you have enrolled
4. Be prepared to do some good-faith negotiating on the financial aid offers you receive

Things to consider when picking a graduate school:

- You can become strategic and work for a company that pays for your education.
- Looking into assistantships that pay for most, if not all, your tuition.
- Start taking a look at scholarships and fellowships - public and private.
- Making an appointment with someone in Financial Aid to get all the information about loans and the proper ones to choose.
- Depending the area/industry you choose, you can receive loan assistance after working an X amount of years in that industry.

Degree Pay Scales

If you are interested in finding out more about the degree pay scales with occupations and industries in the U.S. market, take a look at the latest survey from PayScale.com. It can be broken down by state, degree, and occupation.
The journey to graduate school can be complex and even confusing. There are so many options, and finding the right school is the main goal. With out of state fees and the costs of moving, it is a big decision to continue your education outside of your home state. However, there's no need to fear!

Here are a few factors to consider when deciding where to go:

- How will attending a graduate program that benefits you and your academic and career goals?
- Does having this degree allow you to grow in the industry or company that you are in currently?
- How useful will this degree be in your field?
- Is the cost of graduate school a financially sound decision?
- How much more will you earn after graduating?
- Is this the right time for you to attend graduate school?
Graduate school resources

Your resources are right at your finger tips!

Students can always ask about the resources that are available in the schools they are actively attending or are interested in attending:

- Financial Aid Office
- Office of Graduate School Admissions
- Student Affairs Graduate Assistantship (SAGA)
- Faculty and Advisors within your program of interest
- McNair Scholars Programs
- Student Organizations
- Office of Scholarships

The Career and Talent Development Department at FIU can help you with Graduate School Exploration appointments as well. You can request an appointment with a Career Coach through Handshake, FIU’s career development portal.
Why did you choose your graduate program and how did you make the decision?
Ultimately, I chose Industrial-Organizational (I/O) Psychology because our skills allow us to be catalysts of change. Organizations are tremendously important in the United States’ culture, and people are very important to me. I feel that my I/O skills in understanding organizations and human behavior give me the opportunity to identify the approaches that are successful for businesses but also humane for individuals. I had very little career exposure in my small town growing up, so I changed undergrad majors four times. I finally took some career tests at my school’s counseling center, and it recommended psychology. I took a few courses, but I was not sure of a specific discipline. I was afraid to commit to anything long term because I love to learn everything. I love that I/O allows me to conduct meaningful work, while also being a broad enough field to allow flexibility so I do not become bored.

How did you finance graduate school?
I only applied to Florida and Georgia schools because I feared out-of-state tuition. Turns out, most Ph.D. programs are funded (tuition is covered and you receive a small stipend), so tuition in general was not a problem while I worked for the university. However, the stipend is not a living wage. I still had to take out some loans to get by, but my M.S. and Ph.D. have cost me less than I expected.

What resources did you find the most helpful when looking into what programs would be best suitable for your career?
My most valuable resource was the one professor I built a professional relationship with in undergrad. He steered me in the right direction to speak with I/O professors at my undergraduate institution to learn as much as possible. I also found our chapter of the American Psychological Association, the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP)’s website were very helpful. It had a list of top-ranked programs in our field, and that is how I found FIU.

Did you always plan on going to graduate school or was this something you chose to do later in your undergrad journey? If so, what made you want to pursue a graduate degree?
Absolutely not, nobody in my immediately family has a graduate degree. In undergrad, I started to realize that it was becoming nearly necessary to have a master’s degree in several fields to make a living wage and have decent hours.

... (Continue on next page)
I contacted my undergraduate mentor and asked him to write me a letter of recommendation. He would not hang up the phone until I agreed to apply for a Ph.D. as well, which at that time seemed absolutely ridiculous. Having nobody in my family with a doctorate, I had no concept of what it entailed and it had never really seemed like an option. He encouraged me to give it a shot, and I am glad he did.

**What do you wish you had known as an undergrad when applying for a graduate school?**

I wish I would have known to ask for help, with all of it. I wish I would have talked to some of the graduate students in the lab I briefly worked with as an undergrad. I did literature reviews and recruited for graduate students for months, it would have been perfectly appropriate to ask them about their experience applying to graduate school, but I did not realize that. I also wish I would have known it is okay to contact the professors in that program and talk to them.

**Do you have any advice for undergraduate students thinking about going into a graduate program?**

Please know that you are not being a burden when asking your professors/TAs for help. Build relationships with us, ask about our research, tell us what interests you, bring up your passions in your homework and writing, and come by our office hours. Please show your resume, your personal statement, and your writing samples to us. Especially if nobody in your family has done this, it can feel like you are being a nuisance. In academia, building these relationships is EXPECTED. Be respectful and give plenty of advance notice (we are all working 70 hours a week, so we need some warning), but most people are happy to help and know what you are going through. Also, when you are applying to a school, go look at the faculty and graduate students resumes. Resumes in academia are set up differently. I would recommend starting there to see what is important to their program, and model your resume and the focus of your personal statement on that.
So you have decided to go to graduate school, you have submitted all your documents, and the time comes when you get the call to interview. It is the last step and you have no idea what to expect.

- You will want to think about who you are and what your goals are. Know these goals inside and out and be able to talk about your experiences in a way that shows your interviewer that you aim to meet those aspirations. Let your passions and interests shine through.
- Practice - Your interviewer is likely to ask at least one question that can stump you. The key is to be prepared.
- Do your research - know about every aspect of the program for which you are being interviewed for.

Career and Talent Development

Our department offers Graduate School Mock Interviews. Simply set up an appointment via Handshake fiu.joinhandshake.com
Graduate School Week

What is Graduate School Week?
A week in October where universities will be able to talk to students about their graduate school programs. It includes a graduate school fair and an admissions panel.

Where is it?
The Graduate School Fair will be held in the Graham Center (GC) Pit area and surrounding tables at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

When is it?
October 8, 9, 10: Tabling of Universities from 11 am to 3 pm
October 9: Graduate School Admissions Panel in GC 140 from 1 pm to 2 pm

Events at BBC
October 10th at HL 175
Writing Personal Statements for Graduate School Workshop: 2 pm – 3 pm
Career Espresso- Graduate Degrees & Resources: 3 pm – 4 pm

Graduate school representatives consist of variety of recruiters, directors, faculty, and Graduate Students providing their stories and journeys.

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Who is Attending

October 8
- Albizu University
- Colorado School of Mines
- Erikson Institute
- Florida Atlantic University- FAU Executive Programs
- Florida Gulf Coast University
- Florida International University – Athletic Training Program
- FIU- CARTA
- FIU- Graduate & International Admissions
- Harvard Business School
- Indiana University- The University Graduate School
- Life University- Doctor of Chiropractic Program
- New York University, School of Professional Studies
- Nova South Eastern University- Huizenga College of Business
- Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Rollins College
- Sherman College of Chiropractic
- St. George’s University, Grenada, West Indies
- The University of Tampa- Admissions
- University of Central Florida- Executive Development Center
- UCF College of Graduate Studies
- UM- Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- University of San Diego School of Law
- University of South Florida- College of Pharmacy
- University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences- Occupational Therapy

October 9
- Albizu University
- Barry University – Graduate Admissions
- Barry University- School of Podiatric Medicine
- Boston University- School of Public Health
- Erikson Insitute
- Florida Atlantic University- Graduate College
- Johnson & Wales University
- National Louis University
- Nova Southeastern University- Huizenga College of Business
- Nova Southeastern University- Miami Campus
- Nova Southeastern University- Shepard Broad College of Law
- NYU Tandon School of Engineering
- Roger Williams University- Graduate Programs
- Rollins College
- Sherman College of Chiropractic
- St. George’s University, Grenada, West Indies
- University of Tampa- Admissions

October 10
- Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine- Student Services
- Albizu University
- Barry University- Graduate Admissions
- Erikson Insitute
- Florida International University- Center for Labor Research and Studies
- FIU- Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
- FIU- Master of Arts in Global Affairs
- FIU-Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work
- Florida State University-College of Communication & Information
- Gannon University
- MIT School of Architecture and Planning
- Nova South Eastern University- Huizenga College of Business
- Ross University School of Medicine
- St. George’s University, Grenada, West Indies
- The University of Tampa- Admissions
- University of Florida
- University of Florida- MBA Programs
- University of Miami Graduate Programs in Public Health
- UM-Interdisciplinary & Professional Studies
- University of North Florida Graduate School- Coggin College of Business Graduate Program
Graduate School Admissions
Information Panel

Wednesday, October 9
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Room GC 150

Schools Attending:

- New York University
- Florida International University- Graduate School
- Nova Southeastern University- College of Law
- Barry University- Podiatric Medicine
- Boston University- School of Public Health
- University of Miami- Interdisciplinary and Professional Studies Office
CAREER AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT HOSTS SEVERAL WORKSHOPS TO HELP STUDENTS LEARN MORE ABOUT PREPARATION FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP DATES AND LOCATIONS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODesto MAIDIQue CAMPUs</th>
<th>October 18</th>
<th>Are you interested in Graduate School?</th>
<th>11 am - 12 pm</th>
<th>SASC 305</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 24</td>
<td>Resume/Cover Letter Writing</td>
<td>1 pm - 2 pm</td>
<td>SASC 305</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>Interviewing Skills/ Elevator Pitch</td>
<td>11 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>SASC 305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November 25</td>
<td>Resume/Cover Letter Writing</td>
<td>11 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>SASC 305</td>
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<tr>
<th>ENgINEERING CEnTER</th>
<th>November 1</th>
<th>Resume/Cover letter Writing</th>
<th>2 pm - 3 pm</th>
<th>EC 2300</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>November 19</td>
<td>LinkedIn 101 &amp; Headshots</td>
<td>1 pm - 2 pm</td>
<td>EC 2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>CV/Coverletter Writing</td>
<td>3 pm - 4 pm</td>
<td>EC 2300</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>BIsCAYNE BAY CAMPUs</th>
<th>October 26</th>
<th>Resume Writing @ I-75 Campus</th>
<th>12:30 pm - 1:30 pm</th>
<th>I-75 426 A</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Resumefest</td>
<td>12 pm - 3 pm</td>
<td>WUC 255</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>LinkedIn 101 &amp; Headshots</td>
<td>2 pm - 3 pm</td>
<td>WUC 255</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

REQUEST A ONE ON ONE APPOINTMENT FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL EXPLORATION IN HANDSHAKE

fiu.joinhandshake.com

career.fiu.edu
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Barry University- Graduate Admissions
Erikson Institute
Florida International University- CARTA
Special Thank you to the Guidebook Sponsors:

Florida International University- Nichole Wertheim

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University of Miami- Interdisciplinary and Professional Studies
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University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences- Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy

Florida Pre-Occupational Therapy Conference

8:00AM to 4:00PM
Location: University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, Miami Campus
800 Douglas Road #149
Coral Gables, FL 33134

October 26, 2019
Explore a career path in Occupational Therapy and connect with OT Graduate programs, students and practitioners.

Events
- Keynote Presentations
- Workshops
- OT Student Panel
- OT Practitioner Panel
- FL OT Graduate School Fair
- Networking Opportunities

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Questions? Email mrosen@usa.edu

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